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“Huckster” Sentenced to Prison for Home Renovation Scheme

Georgetown – Attorney General Beau Biden announced today that Theodore Barrett, Jr., age 39, of Selbyville, has received a four year prison sentence following his June conviction for fraudulently obtaining over \$90,000 from a couple in connection with a contract to renovate and expand their South Bethany home. The case was investigated and prosecuted by the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Unit.

“This fraudster learned the hard way that crime doesn’t pay,” Attorney General Biden said. “Our Consumer Protection Unit is working hard to protect Delawareans from dishonest businesspersons who betray their victims’ trust to make a quick buck. I urge any consumer who believes they have been the victim of a fraud or scam to call our Consumer Hotline at 1-800-220-5424.”

The investigation was initiated in October, 2010 after the victims filed a complaint against Barrett with the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Unit. The victims terminated their contract and contacted Biden’s office after becoming frustrated with the progress of the renovation project and discovering that Barrett had submitted false information in the building permit submitted to Sussex County. The Attorney General’s investigation revealed that in order to secure the victims’ business, Barrett took them on a tour of a multi-million dollar waterfront home in West Ocean City, MD, which he claimed he owned and which was built by his company, Beachside Builders. The investigation determined that Barrett never owned the home and the home was built by another company.

Today Superior Court Judge T. Henley Graves sentenced Barrett to 4 years in prison, followed by 1 year of probation. In addition, Barrett was ordered to repay the victims more than \$100,000, including \$93,998 in restitution and \$6,508 in legal fees and expenses they incurred. On June 16, 2011, after a three day trial, a jury found Barrett guilty of all charges on which he was indicted: three counts of felony theft by false pretenses, one count of attempted felony theft by false pretense, and one count of offering a false instrument for filing, a misdemeanor. After the verdict was announced, Judge Graves revoked Barrett’s bail and he was immediately taken into custody.

A mug shot of Barrett follows:



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